

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for conducting a transfer of a conference call, comprising:

receiving media streams from a plurality of endpoints participating in a conference call;

receiving a message at a media gateway to transfer responsibility for mixing of the media streams from a first call resource to a second call resource;

transferring responsibility for mixing of the media streams from the first call resource to the second call resource based on the message; and

communicating a prompt to the clients during the transfer of responsibility for mixing of the media streams if the message indicates a change in the number of clients participating in the conference call, the prompt operable to mask the transfer of responsibility for mixing of the media streams between the first and second call resources.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

receiving the message at the media gateway to transfer responsibility for mixing of the media streams from the first call resource to the second call resource comprises a request from an additional client to join the conference call; and

the prompt indicates that the additional client has joined the conference call.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

receiving the message at the media gateway to transfer responsibility for mixing of the media streams from the first call resource to the second call resource comprises a request from one of the clients participating in the conference call to exit the conference call; and

the prompt indicates that the one client has exited the conference call.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

receiving the message at the media gateway to transfer responsibility for mixing of the media streams from the first call resource to the second call resource comprises a request to initiate an additional conference call on the first call resource; and

if the message does not indicate the change in the number of clients, responsibility for mixing of the media streams is transferred in response to detecting a period of silence in the conference call.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the media streams comprise packets of voice information.

6. (Original) A media gateway, comprising:

an interface operable to couple to a communication network; and

a processing module coupled to the interface, the processing module operable to:

play a prompt to a plurality of clients if a transfer message indicates a change in the number of clients participating in a conference call; and

transfer the conference call from a first call resource to a second call resource;

wherein the processing module simultaneously plays the prompt and transfers the conference call.

7. (Original) The media gateway of Claim 6, wherein:

the transfer message comprises a request by an additional client to join the conference call; and

the prompt indicates that the additional client joined the conference call.

8. (Original) The media gateway of Claim 6, wherein:

the transfer message comprises a request by one of the clients participating in the conference call to exit the conference call; and

the prompt indicates that the one client exited the conference call.

9. (Original) The media gateway of Claim 6, wherein:  
the transfer message comprises a request to initiate an additional conference call on  
the first call resource; and  
if the transfer message does not indicate the change in the number of clients, the  
processing module is further operable to transfer the conference call in response to detecting  
a period of silence in the conference call.

10. (Previously Presented) Logic encoded in media for conducting a transfer of a  
conference call and operable to perform the following steps:

receiving media streams from a plurality of endpoints participating in a conference  
call;

receiving a message at a media gateway to transfer responsibility for mixing of the  
media streams from a first call resource to a second call resource;

transferring responsibility for mixing of the media streams from the first call resource  
to the second call resource based on the message; and

communicating a prompt to the clients during the transfer of responsibility for mixing  
of the media streams if the message indicates a change in the number of clients participating  
in the conference call, the prompt operable to mask the transfer of responsibility for mixing  
of the media streams between the first and second call resources.

11. (Previously Presented) The logic encoded in media of Claim 10, wherein:

receiving the message at the media gateway to transfer responsibility for mixing of  
the media streams from the first call resource to the second call resource comprises a request  
from an additional client to join the conference call; and

the prompt indicates that the additional client has joined the conference call.

12. (Previously Presented) The logic encoded in media of Claim 10, wherein:

receiving the message at the media gateway to transfer responsibility for mixing of  
the media streams from the first call resource to the second call resource comprises a request  
from one of the clients participating in the conference call to exit the conference call; and

the prompt indicates that the one client has exited the conference call.

13. (Previously Presented) The logic encoded in media of Claim 10, wherein:  
receiving the message at the media gateway to transfer responsibility for mixing of  
the media streams from the first call resource to the second call resource comprises a request  
to initiate an additional conference call on the first call resource; and  
if the message does not indicate the change in the number of clients, responsibility for  
mixing of the media streams is transferred in response to detecting a period of silence in the  
conference call.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for conducting a transfer of a conference  
call, comprising:

means for receiving media streams from a plurality of endpoints participating in a  
conference call;

means for receiving a message at a media gateway to transfer responsibility for  
mixing of the media streams from a first call resource to a second call resource;

means for transferring responsibility for mixing of the media streams from the first  
call resource to the second call resource based on the message; and

means for communicating a prompt to the clients during the transfer of responsibility  
for mixing of the media streams if the message indicates a change in the number of clients  
participating in the conference call, the prompt operable to mask the transfer of responsibility  
for mixing of the media streams between the first and second call resources.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein:

the message comprises a request from an additional client to join the conference call;  
and

the prompt indicates that the additional client has joined the conference call.

16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein:

the message comprises a request from one of the clients participating in the  
conference call to exit the conference call; and

the prompt indicates that the one client has exited the conference call.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein:

the message comprises a request to initiate an additional conference call on the first call resource; and

if the message does not indicate the change in the number of clients, responsibility for mixing of the media streams is transferred in response to detecting a period of silence.

18. (Previously Presented) A method for conducting a transfer of a conference call, the method comprising:

receiving unmixed media streams from a plurality of endpoints participating in a conference call;

receiving a message at a media gateway to transfer responsibility for mixing of the unmixed media streams from a first call resource to a second call resource;

introducing a delay in a selected one of a first mixed media stream and a second mixed media stream to synchronize the first mixed media stream and the second mixed media stream; and

transferring responsibility for mixing of the unmixed media streams from the first call resource to the second call resource upon confirming that the first and second mixed media streams are synchronized.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:

receiving, at the media gateway, the first mixed stream generated by the first call resource;

receiving, at the media gateway, the second mixed media stream generated by the second call; and

analyzing the first and second mixed media streams to determine the delay between the first and second mixed media streams.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein introducing the delay comprises:

instructing the second call resource to add the delay to the second mixed media stream; and

receiving, at the media gateway, the second mixed media stream with the added delay.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein introducing the delay comprises: instructing the first call resource to add the delay to the first mixed media stream; and receiving, at the media gateway, the first mixed media stream with the added delay.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the first and second mixed media streams comprise packets of voice information.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for mixing data packets, comprising:  
receiving unmixed media streams from a plurality of endpoints participating in a conference call;  
transmitting the unmixed media streams to a first call resource;  
receiving a first mixed media stream from the first call resource;  
transmitting the first mixed media stream to the plurality of endpoints;  
detecting a transfer condition;  
duplicating the unmixed media streams;  
transmitting the duplicated unmixed media streams to a second call resource;  
receiving a second mixed media stream from the second call resource;  
validating the second mixed media stream;  
transmitting the second mixed media stream to the plurality of endpoints;  
ending transmitting the first mixed media stream to the plurality of endpoints, and  
masking the transition from transmitting the first mixed media stream to transmitting the second mixed media stream.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the transfer condition includes a request to add a new endpoint to the conference call.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein masking the transition includes playing a message to each of the plurality of endpoints that the new endpoint has joined the conference call.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the transfer condition includes a request to remove at least one of the plurality of endpoints from the conference call.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein masking the transition includes playing a message to the plurality of endpoints that the at least one of the plurality of endpoints has left the conference call.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the transfer condition includes a request to initiate an additional conference call.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein masking the transition includes detecting a period of silence; and

wherein transmitting the second mixed media stream and ending transmitting the first mixed media stream occur during the period of silence.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein validating the second mixed media stream includes modifying packet header information associated with the second mixed media stream to correspond with packet header information associated with the first mixed media stream.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein the packet header information to be modified is selected from the group consisting of source information, destination information, size information, SSRC numbers, sequence numbers, order numbers, and time stamps.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein validating the second mixed media stream includes introducing a delay in the first mixed media stream or in the second mixed media stream to synchronize the first mixed media stream and the second mixed media stream.

33. (Previously Presented) A method of allocating call resources, comprising:

receiving at a media gateway a request to initiate a first conference call between a first plurality of conference call participants;

initiating the first conference call;

receiving at a media gateway a first plurality of unmixed packet streams from the first plurality of conference call participants;

transmitting the first plurality of unmixed packet streams to a first call resource for mixing at the first call resource;

utilizing the first call resource to mix the first plurality of unmixed packet streams;

receiving at the media gateway a request to initiate a second conference call between a second plurality of conference call participants;

initiating the second conference call;

receiving at the media gateway a second plurality of unmixed packet streams from the second plurality of conference call participants;

transmitting the second plurality of unmixed packet streams to a second call resource for mixing at the second call resource;

utilizing the second call resource to mix the second plurality of unmixed packet streams;

determining that the first call resource can mix the second plurality of unmixed packet streams while the first call resource continues mixing the first plurality of unmixed packet streams;

duplicating the second plurality of unmixed packet streams;

transmitting the duplicated second plurality of unmixed packet streams to the first call resource;

utilizing the first call resource to mix the duplicated second plurality of unmixed packet streams while the first call resource also mixes the first plurality of unmixed packet streams; and

ending transmitting the second plurality of unmixed packet streams to the second call resource for mixing at the second call resource.